

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

KUSCINCSO

XMT AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227606

FOLLOWING BOGOTA ORPR ACTION SECSTATE INFO LIMA NOV 16TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9404

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR CO XM

SUBJECT: LA FONMINS CONFERENCE: ROUNDUP OF DEVELOPMENTS

NOV 16

: BOGOTA 9377 AND 9335

LIMA FOR USDEL TO OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: AS THE LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS MTG DRAWS TO A

CLOSE THE ONLY REMAINING POINTS OF CONTENTION ARE THE

TITLE AND PREAMBLE OF THE DECLARATION TO BE RELEASED.

THE TEXT, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, IS BASICALLY

THAT OF THE PRELIMINARY DOCUMENT. THE CONFERENCE HAS

BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY ITS MODERATION, AND BUSINESS HAS

PROCEEDED IN A PROFESSIONAL, DISPASSIONATE AND RESPON-

SIBLE MANNER. THE EMBASSY INCLUDES BELOW SOME

IMPRESSIONISTIC COMMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SOME OF

THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE AS WELL AS THEIR POSITIONS

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ON SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY

1. AS OF THE MORNING OF NOV 16, THE ONLY REMAINING POINTS OF CONTENTION AT THE LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO SOME OF OUR SOURCES, ARE THE TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT AND SOME WORDS IN THE PREAMBLE.

CALVANI OF VENEZUELA AND OTHERS DO NOT WISH TO CALL THE DOCUMENT THE DECLARATION OF BOOTA AS THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE DOCUMENT THE STATUS OF A GREAT AND IMMUTABLE DECLARATION BUT WISH TO EMPHASIZE ITS TENTATIVE NATURE. THE COLOMBIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE PUSHING FOR THE ABOVE TITLE AND ALSO FOR A FORMAL PREAMBLE. (ONE WAG HAS SUGGESTED THE TITLE "DECLARATION OF THE CLUB MILITAR" AFTER THE SITE OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE NATURE OF MANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED.)

2. AT A DINNER GIVEN BY COLOMBIAN FONMIN VAZQUEZ FOR THE DELEGATES ON NOV 15, PERUVIAN FONMIN EXPRESSED TO THE CHARGE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE DOCUMENT AS IT IS NOW WORDED. HE APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO INSERT STRONGER LANGUAGE ON ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE IN THE PREAMBLE OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT. AS MATTERS STOOD ON THE MORNING OF NOV 16, THE FONMINS SEEMED AGREED NOT TO MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT WE TRANSMITTED BY BOGOTA 9335. THEY ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE BE A COMPREHENSIVE PREAMBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MEXICAN AND ONE OR TWO DELEGATES FROM THE CARIBBEAN TOLD THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ASSUME THE CONFERENCE WOULD RUBBER STAMP THE WORK OF THE PREPARATORY MTG.

3. THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPRESSIONISTIC NATURE OF THE COMMENTS THAT FOLLOW WHICH ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE SOME OF THE FLAVOR OF THE CONFERENCE AND TO PROVIDE A PICTURE OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL DELEGATES AND THE POSITIONS THEY ASSUMED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

4. ALTHOUGH OBSERVERS OF THE CONFERENCE TEND TO DESCRIBE PARTICIPANTS AS EITHER RADICAL OR MODERATE, THE TERM RADICAL SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN ITS NORMAL EXTREME SENSE. AT NO TIME DID ANY OF THE DELEGATES DIRECTLY ATTACK THE US AND, THE NARROW GAP BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE "RADICALS" AND "MODERATES" AND THE RELATIVE HARMONY OF THE MTG WERE TWO OF ITS PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS. WHILE THE MORE "RADICAL" DELEGATIONS-MEXICO, PERU AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN-ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC

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WITH THE MODERATE TONE OF THE DOCUMENT, THE MORE CONSERVATIVE PARTICIPANTS, BRQZIL, CHILE, URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, ARE PLEASED THAT THEY ACHIEVED WHAT THEY REGARD AS A CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE OUTCOME.

5. COLOMBIA IS QUITE CONTENT WITH THE PROFESSIONAL DISPASSIONATE, AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE HAS PROGRESSED. ONE OF THE INTERESTING

ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE WAS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TWO SILVER-HAIRED LAME DUCK FONMINS, VAZQUEZ AND CALVANI, WHO DOMINATED THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXCHANGED FLOWERY COMPLIMENTS.

6. MEXICO EMERGED AS THE LEADER OF THE MORE RADICAL GROUP AT THE CONFERENCE AND RABASA WAS PARTICULARLY PERSUASIVE AND SKILLFUL. ON THE QUESTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, PANAMA WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT A WEAKER STATEMENT BUT MEXICO PUSHED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE STRONGER WORDING WHICH WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED.

7. BRAZIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, CLEARLY EMERGED AS THE LEADER OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE PARTICIPANTS, AND AMBASSADOR MACIEL EARNED THE RESPECT OF ALL WITH A BILLIANT PERFORMANCE WHICH COMBINED SOUND STAFF WORK WITH NEGOTIATING ABILITY OF A HIGHER ORDER.

8. THE VENEZUELAN FREQUENTLY SUPPORTED THE MEXICAN POSITION AND PUSHED HARD ON THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING CUBA ON THE AGENDA.

9. PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA FLOR VALLE DID NOT MAKE A PARTICULARLY DYNAMIC IMPRESSION ALTHOUGH HE DID WEAR WELL. HE HAVE THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MORE RADICAL GROUP, ALTHOUGH IT APPEARED HE MIGHT DO JUST THAT WHEN THE CONFERENCE BEGA. HE ALSO SEEMED PREOCUPEID WITH OTHER MATTERS.

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE, HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST READ THAT THE US HAD CUT OFF IDB CREDITS TO PERU AND THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR PERU TO ASSUME A MODERATE STANCE. DE LA FLOR VALLE DID NOT ATTRACT A GROUP OF SATELLITE MINISTERS AND AMBASSADORS ABOUT HIM THE WAY THAT THE BRAZILIAN AND THE MEXICAN SEEMED ABLE TO DO.

10. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION TOOK A DISTRINCTIVE BACK SEAT
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AT THE PROCEEDINGS AND APPEARED GENERALLY DISGRUNTLED. THEIR CHARACTERISTIC COMBINATION OF CYNICISM AND CONDESCENSION DID NOT WORK WELL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

11. SOME OF THE REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN ONLY A VERY MARGINAL SENSE. NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR, FOR INSTANCE, NEVER MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT AT ALL AND URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY, REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADORS DID NOT HAVE THE RANK TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD AND SIMPLY VOTED WITH THE BRAZILIANS. CHILE ALSO BACKED BRAZIL ALL THE WAY.

12. FONMIN JOSE LUCIO PAREDES OF ECUADOR WAS VERY MODERATE AND HELPFUL AND DID NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE ANY PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S. IT WAS INDICATIVE OF HIS ATTITUDE THAT NO CONFRANTATION AROSE OVER THE 200-MILE LIMIT.

13. GUAYANESE FONMIN S.S. RAMPHAL MADE AN EXCELLENT SPEECH ON THE PROBLEMS OF A SMALL COJTNRY IN DEALING

WITH THE US WHICH WHILE CRITICAL WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE
AND POSITIVE STATEMENT.

14. FONMIN FACCIO OF COSTA RICA INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION
ON THE "FREE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA TO LIVE
UNDER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT" BUT GRACIOUSLY WITHDREW
HIS RESOLUTION WHEN ITS EMBARRASSING IMPLICATIONS WERE
EXPLAINED TO HIM. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS GAME PLAYING
AND THAT FACCIO NEVER INTENDED TO PURSUE HIS RESOLUTION.

15. FONMIN BATRES OF HONDURAS LEFT THE CONFERENCE EARLY
TO ATTEND A PRIVATE MTG OF THE PRESIDENTS OF HONDURAS
AND EL SALVADOR WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THEIR
BORDER PROBLEM.

16 THE GUATEMALAN FONMIN JORGE ARENALES CATALAN
PROVED HELPFUL ON THE PANAMA AND CUBAN QUESTIONS BUT
UNFORTUNATELY IN THIS PROCESS EARNED HIMSELF THE REPUTATION
OF A COMPLETE REACTIONARY AND THEREBY LOST MUCH OF HIS
EFFECTIVENESS.

17. AN INTERESTING HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS AN
ADDRESS BY GALO PLAZA IN WHICH HE COMPLIMENTED VAZQUEZ
ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE HAS PROGRESSED
AND ANALYZED FOR THE DELEGATES THE CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY
OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE EMPHASIZED THE SECRETARY'S
BRILLIANCE AND PRESTIGE AND SAID THAT A MOST IMPORTANT
FACTOR WAS HIS INFLUENCE WITH CONGRESS. GALO PLAZA
SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS INFLUENCE THE EXECUTIVE
AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD BE MADE
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TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF LA.

18. IT HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED THAT MEXICO WILL BE SITE
OF THE MEETING WITH KISSINGER.
WHITE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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